



City of Boston
In City Council

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL OF IMPLEMENTING A PILOT
STREET CLEANING PROGRAM IN SOUTH BOSTON**

By Councilor Bill Linehan

March 18, 2009

WHEREAS: The City of Boston's posted street cleaning program runs from April to November with enforcement provided by contracted private tow companies; *and,*

WHEREAS: Despite a strict towing policy for vehicles left on the street during signed street cleaning hours, the majority of vehicles are not towed, often remaining on the street blocking the sweeper; *and,*

WHEREAS: South Boston is a densely populated neighborhood with significant parking problems and incurs more tickets and tows related to street cleaning than any other neighborhood in Boston; *and,*

WHEREAS: The City's Street Cleaning Program should be administered equitably with a shared burden of compliance for all residents, not only neighborhoods with insufficient residential parking; *and,*

WHEREAS: The practice of towing by private contractors is environmentally unfriendly and economically inefficient, wasting valuable City resources during a time a fiscal restraint; *and,*

WHEREAS: Compliance continues to improve and will benefit from the change in hours to begin street sweeping at 9am rather than 8 am, it could benefit some neighborhoods to suspend towing, levy a higher fee for violations and use the added revenue to assist in a more comprehensive street cleaning effort, including more hand sweepers with blowers to clean under cars, clean the trail left behind street sweepers, and clean up after the garbage trucks on trash day.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the potential of implementing a street cleaning pilot program in South Boston that would eliminate towing and charge violators a \$100 fee, while still achieving curb to curb street cleaning efforts. Representatives from the appropriate City Departments, as well as the public are invited to give their perspectives on these issues.